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Network Diagnostics and Improvements

As mentioned to you previously, we recently completed a comprehensive network diagnostic evaluation. As a result of that study, we are installing and testing a Reports Server that will allow us to compress generated reports before sending them to you. This will speed up the process. To give an example, during our diagnostic evaluation, using this approach, we were able to compress a 13.7M report to 1.7M. If all goes as scheduled, we will go live with the Reports Server on Monday, April 4th.

We are pilot testing bandwidth prioritization with two school sites in one of our SSMS Phase I districts. Circuits have been ordered to support this effort as well as enhanced connectivity to the State Data Center to avoid a single point of failure at that location on the network. Circuits to provide redundancy at the ConnecTen platforms across the state are anticipated to be delivered by mid- to late-April. The report for provision of T1s for SSMS participants shows 34 complete, 4 circuits awaiting installation, 27 pending telephone company delivery dates.

Our work on the High Availability Architecture in the State Data Center is on schedule. Implementation of this Architecture will be taking place within the next few weeks.

Help Desk Issues

We are within the Interim Help Desk Operations window until July 1, 2005. During this Interim period, all Help Desk calls will be routed from the SDE Help Desk directly to Century and PCG Support. We are augmenting and training staff to set up new procedures that will go into effect July 1.

Data Issues

All Phase II districts have received the URLs. The Data Conversion Team is in the process of working with Phase II districts receiving test and live data for conversion. If you have not submitted your test data, please contact Darian Cordell.

I sent an email to SSMS Phase I districts today regarding Special Education Options calculations. Vocational ADM calculations should be completed as quickly as possible also. These two items are needed to insure accurate BEP estimates for your district budgets.

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EasyIEP Reporter Interface

We appeared before the Legislative Fiscal Review Committee on Monday to present an amendment for the EasyIEP Reporter Interface. The Committee approved the amendment. The Interface is scheduled to be ready by July 1, 2005.

Training

Phase II districts are well on their way to implementing SSMS. Training sessions have occurred for the majority of the districts in the Database Administrator (DBA) and Scheduling areas. This process began the week of January 24th and will be completed the week of April 11th. The majority of Phase I districts have received their follow-up Scheduling sessions as well. The remaining districts will be trained by the week of April 11th.

EIS/State Assigned Unique Student Identifier

Norton McDaniel will be conducting refresher training for EIS during the coming weeks. He will also be demonstrating and discussing the use of the State Assigned Unique Student Identifier being put into place. These sessions are scheduled for late April and early May.

Thank you all for the continued support, assistance, hard work, and dedication that you have shown on this project.

Sincerely,

Timothy K. Webb, Ed.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Resources and Support Services Division
Tennessee Department of Education